THE

Genuine Syrup of de Velnos,

PREPARED

By ISAAC SWAINSON,

SOLE PROPRIETOR OF THE MEDICINE,

AT

No. 21, Frith - Street, London.

THE following Account of the Medicine has appeared in a Publication, called The Ladies' Library; *the medical Articles of which, are said to be written by* Dr. Buchan.—*It is very clear and judicious, and may be of great utility to those who wish to understand the nature and properties of the Syrup; and to distinguish it from those spurious preparations, which are obtruded on the Public, under names resembling it, and under pretences of imitation, improvement, or recent discovery, by pretended Doctors and Surgeons of no character or abilities, and by venders who have an interest in the impostures.*

EXTRACT.

"But the introduction of Velnos Vegetable Syrup into general use, and the persevering efforts and great ingenuity of Mr. Swainson, its present proprietor, have rendered the opinions of this gentleman concerning scrophula and scurvy very prevalent, which we shall state, from his various and excellent publications.

"He does not seem to think that scrophula and scurvy are hereditary; but that persons of delicate habits and fine skins are more liable to them, than those of strong texture and

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and dark complections. These conſtitutions being hereditary, the diſeaſes have that appearance.

"He refers their origin to obſtruction in the neceſſary ſecretions; and particularly in perſpiration. This may be occaſioned by cold, by moiſture, by blows, and by numerous other cauſes cloſing the mouths of the excretory veſſels, and repelling into the lymphatic ſyſtem the matter which ſhould have been diſcharged. This ſoon becoming morbid, occaſions that general weakneſs and that emaciated appearance, which are the known ſymptoms of ſcurvy in weakly children and in delicate young women.

In proportion to the injury of the lymph, the evil ſymptoms appear. When it ſeizes the glands of the neck, under the arms, in the groin, &c, &c. it produces tumors; and if thoſe break into inveterate ulcers with ſcurfy appendages, it aſſumes the form of ſcrophula. If it fixes on the glands of the lungs, an inflammation of the lobes takes place, terminating in a conſumption. Indeed, he ſtrenuouſly maintains the opinion on which it is ſaid the late Sir Richard Jebb proceeded in the caſe of his Royal Highneſs the Duke of Glouceſter, and to which his practice afterwards owed its ſucceſs and reputation—— that conſumption is always the conſequence of the ſcorbutic ſtate of the lymph; and that even the ſlighter coughs ariſe from inhaling moiſt or bad air, which checks the excretions in the region of the lungs, and lodges ſome offending matter, which he calls ſcorbutic. This is a doctrine of great importance in this country; and though Mr. Swainſon has maintained it, with a view to the uſe of the vegetable ſyrup, we think his arguments very fair, and his caſes indiſputable.

"He goes even farther, and aſſerts, on the authority of well-atteſted caſes, that the green ſickneſs, the obſtructions

tions of the menſes, and the fluor albus, or whites, are all ſcorbutic ſymptoms: and he avers, with great appearance of honour and truth, that the ſyrup taken in time, properly, and in ſufficient quantities, never fails of removing them.

" We ſhall not follow him in his enumeration of the effects of diſeaſed lymph in producing gout, rheumatiſm, palſy, apoplexy, &c. but only add, that when theſe dreadful diſeaſes are owing to the cauſe he deſcribes, it is very probable that a powerful aſſiſtance and relief may be obtained in the vegetable ſyrup.

" The only difficulty occuring to us, in the effects of this medicine, which are the ſubjects of praiſe or of controverſy at this time through the kingdom, is its aſſured infallibility, according to a reſpectable liſt of caſes given by Mr. Swainſon, in the venereal diſeaſe.

" The regulars here attack him, and affirm that in theſe caſes he uſes mercury: his mode of refuting this charge, we think very able. The vegetable ſyrup cures diſeaſes by opening the excretory veſſels, and purifying the lymph. It is thus it cures a conſumption at the root; takes away the ſources of ſcorbutic appearances, ſcrophulous ulcers, and removes the obſtructions which interrupt the menſes, and bring on fluor albus, or the whites.

" The venereal virus produces no evil as a diſeaſe, until it enters the lymphatic ſyſtem, and produces buboes, ulcers, and the lues. This, we ſuppoſe, Mr. Swainſon conſiders as a ſpecies of ſcrophula by inoculation; and the ſyrup correcting the lymph, and expelling this like any other morbid matter by the excretories, cures the venereal diſeaſe on the ſame principle it cures the ſcrophula.

" This is a ſimple and beautiful theory; we hope, indeed we are inclined to believe, from compaſſion to our fellow-

creatures,

creatures, that Mr. Swainſon will be able fully to con vince the world of its truth, by the continuance of his preſent uncommon ſucceſs.

" That mercury is a ſpecific for the venereal poiſon, is now an opinion only for a bigotted old woman. We have no doubt, from the known effects of the reſinous woods, and aromatic ſeeds, that a man like Mr. Swainſon, having a moderate knowledge of chemiſtry, and applying his whole time to ſuit proper menſtrua to the extraction of their virtues, may produce a vegetable preparation as powerful as mercury, and yet having none of its inconvenient and fatal effects. We wiſh, therefore, either that government would make it Mr. Swainſon's intereſt to diſcloſe the recipe, and his manner of executing it; for the ſyrup is very much improved in his hands; or that the faculty, inſtead of deſcending to illiberal cavils, and ſubjecting themſelves to the public conviction of falſehood, would always preſcribe the vegetable ſyrup, whenever they want the aſſiſtance of the decoction of the woods or any alterative medicines; for in the hands of the common apothecaries and chemiſts, the decoction of the woods is not better than a decoction of deal chips; and all the vegetable preſcriptions of our phyſicians called alterative, are ineffectual, from the ſlovenly, careleſs, and haſty manner of preparing them.

" We are informed that the whole proceſs in preparation of the vegetable ſyrup by Mr. Swainſon takes a month. This does not look like the conduct of an impoſtor; nor would the fiftieth part of the trouble be neceſſary to prepare a vehicle for mercury."

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